

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 115-23
OFFERED BY MR. MOULTON OF MASSACHUSETTS

Insert after subtitle C of title XII the following new
subtitle:

1 **Subtitle __—Syria Strategy**
2 **Reporting Act**

3 **SEC. __01. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This subtitle may be cited as the “Syria Strategy Re-
5 porting Act”.

6 **SEC. __02. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Donald Trump as presidential candidate
9 criticized President Obama for having no plan to de-
10 feat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (in this sec-
11 tion referred to as “ISIS”).

12 (2) Donald Trump as presidential candidate
13 stated he had a “secret plan” to defeat ISIS.

14 (3) On January 28, 2017, President Trump
15 issued a presidential memorandum that required the
16 Secretary of Defense to develop and submit to Con-
17 gress a plan to defeat ISIS within 30 days.

1 (4) In the interim, according to press reports,
2 President Trump substantially increased the number
3 of members of the Armed Forces deployed to Syria.

4 (5) The plan to defeat ISIS has not been sub-
5 mitted to Congress and President Trump has not in-
6 dicated whether the plan even exists.

7 (6) On April 6, 2017, President Trump
8 launched 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles targeting the
9 Shayrat Airbase in Syria in response to the April 4,
10 2017, chemical weapons attack carried out by the
11 Assad regime.

12 (7) Seven days before the strike, United States
13 Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley stat-
14 ed, “Our priority is no longer to sit there and focus
15 on getting Assad out.”.

16 (8) On the same day, Secretary of State Rex
17 Tillerson stated, “I think the status and the longer-
18 term status of President Assad will be decided by
19 the Syrian people.”.

20 (9) On April 9, 2017, less than a week after the
21 strike, Ambassador Haley stated, “We don’t see a
22 peaceful Syria with Assad in there. . .If [President
23 Trump] needs to do more, he will do more.”.

24 (10) On April 9, 2017, Secretary of State
25 Tillerson stated a potentially contradictory view: “So

1 we know this is going to be hard work, but we think
2 it's also a process that will lead to a durable and
3 lasting stability inside of Syria. Anytime you go on
4 and have a violent change at the top, it is very dif-
5 ficult to create the conditions for stability longer-
6 term.'".

7 **SEC. __03. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that—

9 (1) the President and Administration officials
10 should articulate a coherent diplomatic and military
11 strategy with respect to Syria in order to defeat the
12 Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, address Syria's bru-
13 tal civil war, and bring stability to the region; and

14 (2) conflicting statements by Administration of-
15 ficials, coupled with sporadic use of military force,
16 proposed cuts to the budgets of the Department of
17 State and the United States Agency for Inter-
18 national Development, and increased military deploy-
19 ments, indicate the President lacks a coherent diplo-
20 matic and military strategy with respect to Syria.

21 **SEC. __04. STRATEGY FOR SYRIA AND IRAQ.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
23 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
24 shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State, submit

1 to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy for
2 Syria and Iraq.

3 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by paragraph
4 (1) shall include the following:

5 (1) A description of the political and military
6 objectives and end states for Syria and Iraq.

7 (2) A description of the plan for achieving the
8 political and military objectives and end states for
9 Syria and Iraq, including—

10 (A) with respect to Syria, a plan for polit-
11 ical transition;

12 (B) with respect to Iraq—

13 (i) a plan for political reform and rec-
14 onciliation among ethnic groups and polit-
15 ical parties; and

16 (ii) an assessment of the required fu-
17 ture size and structure of the Iraqi Secu-
18 rity Forces, including irregular forces; and

19 (C) a description of the roles and respon-
20 sibilities of United States allies and partners
21 and other countries in the region in establishing
22 regional stability.

23 (3) A description of the military conditions that
24 must be met for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
25 to be considered defeated.

1 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—

2 In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

4 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
5 Committee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives; and

7 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
8 the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

9 **SEC. __05. LIMITATION ON FUNDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO**
10 **COUNTER THE ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ AND**
11 **THE LEVANT.**

12 Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated or oth-
13 erwise made available to carry out section 1236 of the Carl
14 Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense
15 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–
16 291; 128 Stat. 3558) for fiscal year 2018, not more than
17 \$100,000,000 may be obligated or expended until 15 days
18 after the date on which the President submits to the ap-
19 propriate congressional committees the strategy required
20 by section __04 of this subtitle.

